

West Northamptonshire Council

Arthingworth Neighbourhood Development Plan

Decision Statement

9th February 2024

1. Summary

1.1 Following a positive referendum result, West Northamptonshire Council is publishing its decision to 'make' the Arthingworth Neighbourhood Development Plan as part of West Northamptonshire Council's Development Plan in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

2. Background

2.1 Arthingworth Parish Council, as the qualifying body, applied to be designated as a neighbourhood area on 17th March 2020 which following consultation with the former Daventry District Council was designated on 18th March 2020.

2.2 The draft Neighbourhood Development Plan (Regulation 14) was published by Arthingworth Parish Council for public consultation between 12th August and 30th September 2022.

2.3 Following submission of the Arthingworth Neighbourhood Development Plan to West Northampton Council on 26th January 2023 the plan was published for consultation between 29th March and 23rd May 2023.

2.4 Following the submission consultation, West Northamptonshire Council, with the agreement of the Parish Council, appointed an independent Examiner, Andrew Ashcroft, MRTPI, to review whether the plan met the Basic Conditions required by the legislation and should proceed to a referendum. The examination included a public hearing which was held in the parish on 4th October 2023.

2.5 Following the examination, the Examiner's report was completed in October 2023 and made available on the Council's website. The report concludes that

subject to the making of the modifications recommended in her report, the plan meets the Basic Conditions set out in legislation and should proceed to a referendum. At its meeting on 22nd November 2023 West Northamptonshire Council's Cabinet considered a report on the Arthingworth Neighbourhood Development Plan. Having considered that report, it was resolved that the Planning Policy Committee:

- a) Notes and welcomes the significant progress in making the neighbourhood development plan (NDP) by the Arthingworth community.
- b) Accepts the Examiner's recommended modifications in respect of the Arthingworth NDP
- c) Accepts the Inspector's recommendation that the NDP, as modified in accordance with recommendation (b), shall proceed to a referendum of voters within the Arthingworth Neighbourhood Area.
- d) Approves the proposed Decision Statement set out in Appendix 1, subject to items (b) and (c) above and any necessary factual alterations.
- e) Agrees that delegated authority be given to the Head of Planning Policy and Specialist Services to make any further minor editorial changes be made to the Plan to address any factual and typographical errors and to reflect the fact that the document will be in its intended final form

3. Decision and Reasons

3.1 With the Examiner’s recommended modifications, the Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions set out in paragraph (8) (2) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, is compatible with EU obligations and the Convention Rights and complies with relevant provision made by or under Sections 38A and B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended.

3.2 A referendum into the Plan was held on 8 February 2024. Those voting were asked the following question:

‘Do you want West Northamptonshire Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Arthingworth to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?’

3.3 The count took place on Thursday 8th February 2024 the result of the referendum was as follows:

Response	Number of Votes	Percentage of Total
Yes	78	88.6%
No	10	11.4%
Turnout: 46%		
Number of ballot papers rejected: 0		

3.4 The Regulations require that a majority of those voting vote in favour for the plan to be made. **This requirement is therefore satisfied.**

3.5 To be legally compliant, neighbourhood development plans must not contravene Convention rights or European Union obligations when made. Based on the Screening Reports for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment (August 2022) and confirmed by the examiner in his report (October 2023) and that nothing has come to light subsequently, there is no evidence to suggest any such contravention would occur. I am satisfied that this requirement is met and it is possible for the plan to now be made.

Upon the signing of this document by the Interim Head of Planning and Climate Change Policy, the Arthingworth Neighbourhood Plan is made and planning applications in the Arthingworth Neighbourhood Area must be considered against the Arthingworth Neighbourhood Plan, as well as existing planning policy.

I certify that the above statements are true.

Signed:

Margaret Howe, Senior Policy Officer (Planning)

Date 9th February 2024

I certify that I am satisfied that the making the Arthingworth Neighbourhood Development Plan would not contravene Convention rights or European Union obligations.

Signed:

Richard Wood, Head of Planning Policy and Specialist Services

Date: 9th February 2024